

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ACDA-05 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 NIC-01 /074 W

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R 041608Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7709

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 01890

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, GW, UR, WE

SUBJECT: FRG-SOVIET RELATIONS

REF: MOSCOW 1450, MOSCOW 1226 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: FRG FOREIGN OFFICE SOURCES DO NOT ATTRIBUTE
MAJOR SIGNIFICANCE TO RECENT SIGNS OF SOVIET DISPLEASURE
WITH BONN. THEY ASSIGN OVERRIDING IMPORTANCE TO THE
ECONOMIC FACTOR IN THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. THEY
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THINK THE GERMAN NATIONAL EXHIBITION DUE TO OPEN IN MOS-

COW IN MARCH WILL GIVE A USEFUL STIMULUS TO BONN-MOSCOW TIES. END SUMMARY.

1. THE GERMAN FOREIGN OFFICE IS TAKING A FAIRLY RELAXED VIEW OF CURRENT SIGNS OF SOVIET UNHAPPINESS WITH BONN OVER BERLIN AND OTHER MATTERS (REFTELS). OUR FOREIGN OFFICE CONTACTS PUT THESE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE GENERAL CONTEXT OF THE EVOLUTION OF FRG-SOVIET RELATIONS SINCE THE SCHMIDT VISIT TO MOSCOW LAST FALL. THEY SAY THE RUSSIANS, INCLUDING THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN BONN, FALIN, PROBABLY TOOK AN OVERLY OPTIMISTIC VIEW OF THE PROSPECTS FOR PROGRESS IN BONN-MOSCOW RELATIONS AS A RESULT OF THE SCHMIDT VISIT. IN PARTICULAR, FALIN EXPECTED QUICK PROGRESS IN THE CONCLUSION OF THE LONG-PENDING SCIENTIFIC TECHNOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL AGREEMENTS. IN FACT THERE HAS BEEN NO REAL PROGRESS IN THE INTERIM, BECAUSE OF DIFFICULTIES ON THE INCLUSION OF BERLIN. OUR CONTACTS SAY THE RUSSIANS TRY TO PROJECT BERLIN IN FRG-SOVIET RELATIONS AS A MARGINAL ISSUE, ALMOST AS IF IT WERE ONLY A MATTER OF GERMAN DOMESTIC POLITICS. THE DISCUSSIONS OF THE SCIENTIFIC-TECHNOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL AGREEMENTS IN THE PAST MONTHS HAVE BROUGHT HOME THESE DIFFICULTIES. THE GERMANS ARE RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT VAGUE "GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENTS" ON THE INCLUSION OF BERLIN. THEY WANT UNEQUIVOCAL SOVIET COMMITMENT.

2. OUR CONTACTS DO NOT SEE THE CURRENT EVIDENCE OF SOVIET DISPLEASURE AS INDICATING A SERIOUS TURNING IN SOVIET POLICY TOWARD BONN. THEY SAY THE BASIC FACTOR IN THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP IS ECONOMICS, AND THIS FACTOR IS OF SUCH MAGNITUDE THAT IT MUST HAVE A POSITIVE EFFECT ON THE RELATIONSHIP AS A WHOLE. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT MAJOR POLITICAL CONCESSIONS CAN BE EXTRACTED FROM MOSCOW BECAUSE OF ECONOMIC FACTORS. THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC ARE ALSO SUBSTANTIAL. BUT THE IMPORTANCE OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION TO BOTH SIDES WILL KEEP THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP FROM SLIDING TOO FAR.

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7710

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 01890

OUR CONTACTS NOTED PARENTHETICALLY THE CONCLUSION IN DECEMBER OF THE AGREEMENT FOR THE STUDY OF THE KURSK STEEL COMPLEX TO BE UNDERTAKEN UNDER THE GENERAL SUPERVISION OF KRUPP AND COMPLETED IN 18 MONTHS. THE CONTRACT FOR THE STUDY IS WORTH DM 95 MILLION AND WILL EMPLOY HUNDREDS OF GERMAN ENGINEERS.

3. OUR SOURCES ATTRIBUTE CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO
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THE GERMAN NATIONAL EXHIBITION SCHEDULED TO GET UNDER WAY IN MOSCOW IN MARCH, AND THINK IT WILL GIVE A NEW

IMPULSE TO SOVIET-FRG RELATIONS. THE BERLIN ASPECTS SEEM TO HAVE BEEN WORKED OUT SATISFACTORILY. WE GATHER THAT WHILE BERLIN WILL NOT BE REPRESENTED AS SUCH, BERLIN FIRMS WILL RUN A BOOTH IN THE ECONOMIC SECTION OF THE EXHIBITION ON LEISURE ACTIVITIES IN THE FRG. THERE WILL BE THREE SUCH BOOTHS IN ALL, ON DIFFERENT TOPICS, WITH FIRMS FROM OTHER GERMAN CITIES RUNNING THE OTHER TWO.

4. OUR SOURCES SAID THEIR FAIRLY RELAXED VIEW OF THE PRESENT DIFFICULTIES IN BONN-MOSCOW RELATIONS HAS SO FAR BEEN ACCEPTED AT THE HIGHER REACHES OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE AND IN THE CHANCELLERY. THEY OCCASIONALLY RAN INTO THE FEELING AT HIGHER LEVELS THAT "WE OUGHT TO DO SOMETHING FOR THE SOVIETS," BUT SO FAR THIS KIND OF THINKING HAD NOT PRODUCED ANY PRESSURES THAT THEY HAD BEEN UNABLE TO WITHSTAND. COMMENT. WE IMAGINE THE COOL VIEW OF FRG-SOVIET RELATIONS GIVEN US IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE PROBABLY DOES NOT ENCOUNTER ANY OPPOSITION FROM FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER. GENSCHER WAS APPARENTLY NO MORE ENAMORED OF THE RUSSIANS DURING THE SCHMIDT VISIT THAN THE RUSSIANS WERE OF HIM. THE CHANCELLERY IS ANOTHER MATTER, HOWEVER. SCHMIDT, THOUGH MUCH LESS EMOTIONALLY COMMITTED TO OSTPOLITIK THAN WAS BRANDT, AND MUCH MORE HARD-HEADED, MAY AT SOME STAGE BE INCLINED TO MORE FLEXIBLE APPROACHES THAN THE FOREIGN OFFICE ESPOUSES AT PRESENT. END COMMENT.
HILLENBRAND

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